

Amendments to the Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

~~1~~ ¹ ~~28~~. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253;

wherein the polypeptide stimulates ~~is capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide induces ~~is capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

~~2~~ ¹ ~~29~~. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~28~~ ¹ having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253;

wherein the polypeptide stimulates ~~is capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide induces ~~is capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

~~3~~ ¹ ~~30~~. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~28~~ ¹ having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253;

wherein the polypeptide stimulates ~~is capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide induces ~~is capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

~~4~~ ¹ 1. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~28~~ having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253;

wherein the polypeptide stimulates ~~is capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide induces ~~is capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

~~5~~ ¹ 2. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~28~~ having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253;

wherein the polypeptide stimulates ~~is capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide induces ~~is capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

- ~~6~~ ⁶33. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130; or
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253.

~~7~~ ⁶34. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~33~~ ⁶ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130.

~~8~~ ⁶35. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~33~~ ⁶ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide.

~~9~~ ⁶36. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~33~~ ⁶ comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130.

37. (canceled)

~~10~~ ⁶38. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~33~~ ⁶ comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253.

~~11~~ ¹¹39. (currently amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim ~~28~~ fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

~~12~~ ¹¹40. (currently amended) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim ~~39~~ ¹¹, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.